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STATE PROGRAMS OF WORK IN FARM MANAGEMENT AND FARM ECONOMICS.

CALIFORNIA.

Costs of Producing Crops and Live Stock.—The division has completed the study of 40 field, fruit and truck crops and the handling of beef, hogs, sheep, dairy and poultry with a view to showing the capital requirements, amount of production and incomes derived from these various businesses under California conditions. The results are now available in printed form, the Associated Students' Store having undertaken to bear the cost and responsibility of distributing this work—a seventh edition entitled “Farm Management Notes” by R. L. Adams.

Leasing of California Farm Lands.—Initiated January 23, 1920. The Division of Farm Management began investigations of methods of leasing California farm lands by conducting studies in various farming sections of the State. The investigation is designed to provide a body of data showing the status of leasing, its possibilities for gaining a start in farming, its limitations, its possible abuse, any corrective needs, as an aid to constructive measures for placing California agriculture on a basis as nearly sound and permanent as possible. The points being specifically investigated are:

- (a) Extent of leasing in selected areas to include as much as possible of the agricultural sections of the State.
- (b) Methods used in leasing California farms and farm lands.
- (c) Social aspects of leasing.
- (d) Leasing as a stepping stone to ownership.
- (e) Acreages, incomes and investments of tenants and landlords, and of operating owners.
- (f) Legal aspects of leasing.
- (g) Determination of what constitutes a fair basis for dividing incomes accruing under leasing methods of farming.
- (h) Good and bad features of leasing.

Studies have thus far been conducted into leasing methods as shown by lease contracts collected from firms and farmers and copied from county records on file in recorders' offices. Deductions have not as yet been attempted, other than for pressing needs. A summary of accumulations to date is as follows:

- 79 complete leases in actual use.
- 167 briefs of provisions contained in leases actually in use.
- 9 corporation standard lease forms.
- 17 commercial standard lease forms.
- Numerous accounts of leasing methods.
- Studies of county records.
- Collection of opinions.
- Collection of literature.

Costs of Local Production.—As a result of farmers' activities, an appropriation was made by the last legislature to cover an investigation into the cost of producing locally. The Division of Farm Management will be concerned in this work and preliminary plans are now under way to formulate the basis of operations and to define the scope of the inquiry.

R. L. ADAMS.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA,
BERKELEY.

IOWA.

A State-wide survey of live-stock shipping associations was completed last spring, and an Experiment Station bulletin embodying the results of the study is now in press and will be issued during the current month. In May we undertook, in coöperation with the Land Economics Section of the Office of Farm Management, to make a re-survey of land values in nineteen counties of the State, which were covered by the previous land-value survey of 1919. This work will be completed during the present month and is yielding some extremely interesting data. In June, 1921, we began a State-wide survey of farmers' elevators, some 650 in number, which will be continued until about the close of this year.

We are continuing a coöperative project with the Office of Farm Management on the cost of beef production in Pottawattamie County and will probably enter a coöperative relationship for the study of hog production costs. Likewise, in coöperation with the State Farm Bureau Federation, we are carrying on two detailed cost routes, one in Marshall County and one in Shelby.

E. G. NOURSE.

IOWA STATE COLLEGE,
AMES.

INDIANA.

The department of farm management and rural economics was established at Purdue University July 1, 1920. For nearly six years before

this time farm management extension work had been done in the State. Investigational data were not available except for limited studies made by the Federal Office of Farm Management, therefore the first extension work was necessarily semi-investigational in character.

During the first three years the work consisted largely of securing farm survey records. The succeeding two years similar work was carried on by means of records secured in farm account books. From this extension work there are available over 3,100 labor income records of farms from nearly all sections of the State covering the years 1913 to 1920.

In addition to the work done by the extension department outlined above, two farm management surveys had been made in the State by the Office of Farm Management. In 1910, 1913 and each year thereafter until 1919 labor income records were secured from at least 100 farms in Forest and Johnson townships in Clinton County. A part of this material has been published in the U. S. D. A. Bulletin No. 41, "A Farm Management Survey of Three Representative Areas in Indiana, Illinois and Iowa," and U. S. D. A. Bulletin No. 920, "Farm Profits."

In 1918 and 1919 small farms near Indianapolis were studied by the Washington office through survey records of forty small truck farms. At the time the department of farm management and rural economics was established at Purdue University a study of beef cost of production was being carried on by the Washington office in coöperation with Purdue University. The first year, 1919, 49 labor income and beef cost of production records were taken. The following winter detailed cost information was obtained by the monthly visits of a representative of Purdue University, who took weights on feed, time required for feeding, weights of cattle and other cost information. The labor income and cost studies were made in 1920 and are to be continued for at least a five-year period.

After the department of farm management and rural economics was organized a farm power study was made covering 74 farms. Labor income and power costs were obtained on about the same number of farms this year, and this study will be continued for at least a five-year period in the same county.

The method used in determining the economic status of the tractor is to compare the results obtained on tractor farms with the results obtained on similar farms without tractors. Labor income and farm power costs are obtained. Economical farm power is reflected in labor income. A comparison of farm power costs indicate the cheaper

power for a given amount of work done, while a farm organization and labor income study shows the effect of the tractor regardless of cost per unit of work done.

Plans are under way to start a hog study on the cost of producing pork. It is proposed to carry on this work in the way the beef cost work is being done. This summer cost data were collected on wheat and oats in two representative areas. In the near future other crops will be included in these cost studies if funds permit.

Within the past year this department has assumed the management of a rundown farm in southern Indiana. A new set of improvements are being erected for dairy and poultry farming. Detailed records are kept of all improvement and operating expenses. The aim is to make a good home and at least a fair income.

As the department becomes better organized the scope of its work will be enlarged to cover more of the important economic problems of the State.

O. G. LLOYD.

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE,
LAFAYETTE, INDIANA.

IDAHO.

During the spring of 1919 the University of Idaho and the Federal Office of Farm Management and Farm Economics entered into co-operative relations for the purpose of conducting farm management and farm economic investigations within the State of Idaho. So far two projects, each dealing with farm management and cost of production, have been undertaken. One of these projects is a study of irrigated farming in a typical district of southern Idaho, while the other project deals with the non-irrigated, grain-growing agriculture of the north portion of the State.

Owing to the limited funds available, these problems were attacked by the survey method, the farm business analysis survey being made the basis of the investigation. In connection with the farm survey record, cost data are obtained on all crops. These surveys are to be extended over a period of years in order to yield reliable results.

The data obtained from a study of irrigated farming, it is believed, will be of inestimable value in serving as a guide in the development of several millions of acres of arid land in southern Idaho that will doubtless be brought under irrigation in the near future. The Office of Sugar Plant Investigation, United States Department of Agriculture, is also coöperating with this project.

The non-irrigated, grain-growing area that is being studied embraces not only a portion of Latah County, Idaho, but also a portion of Whitman County, Washington, and the Department of Farm Management of the State College of Washington is coöperating in the investigation. It is also believed that this study will yield information that will be very helpful in placing the agriculture of northern Idaho and eastern Washington on a more permanent basis.

BYRON HUNTER.

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE,
MOSCOW, IDAHO.

SOUTH CAROLINA.

What Has Been Done.—Investigational work in this State up to the present time has been neither abundantly nor extensively carried on. Some investigations have been conducted by the Office of Farm Management and Farm Economics of the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture and are published under the titles, "A Farm Management Study in Anderson County, South Carolina" (U. S. D. A. Bul. 651, published 1918), and "The Cost of Producing Cotton" (U. S. D. A. Bul. 896, published 1920).

The Clemson Agricultural College began some studies in the summer of 1920 when about a dozen farms were surveyed for labor income. It was noted that some farms made very small labor incomes and a few made minus incomes even with prices of cotton and corn as high as they were at that time. A special study of labor distribution and hours was made on some of these farms especially for the cotton and corn crops. In some cases only fifty percent of the total available time was used in productive work. In addition to this, no field work has been done, but important changes have developed as regards the teaching work in farm economics. An advanced course in farm management, actually dealing with farm organization problems and cost of production studies, is being offered to seniors, the laboratory work being nearly entirely devoted to study on actual farms selected as suited to the purpose. The general course in farm management has been changed from the senior to the junior year and is taken by all students in agriculture. It is probable that we shall open a course in cost accounting during this school year. Another new course is farm management and farm bookkeeping, given to the one-year agricultural class.

What is Planned for the Future.—In South Carolina we are just at the turning point as regards farm economics work. Investigations

will be started at once in this State in the several fields of farm economics. The writer intends to devote a considerable portion of each year to such work in addition to duties in teaching. The lines of investigation will be as follows:

1. Cost of production and labor studies. The labor income blank prepared by the Office of Farm Management and Farm Economics of the U. S. Dept. of Agriculture will be employed for determining the income of a farm as a whole, and it is planned to secure several hundred records in typical counties before next summer. We also plan to select about thirty farmers this fall who are able and willing to begin and carry through a complete set of cost accounts. Books will be furnished to these farmers and instructions given as to how to keep the accounts, and at the end of the year the college will, as its share of the contract, check over these books and recommend any desirable changes in the business. In addition to this, it is planned to have about a hundred farmers use the check-book method of farm cost accounting, books being furnished the farmers for this purpose. It is thought that this method will be suited to a certain class of farmers who carry transactions through a bank and who have not the time to devote to the making of a complete set of cost accounts. Special studies of labor distribution and efficiency will be begun, especially as regards cotton and corn, the leading crops. Outlines including all the usual operations on these and other crops will be employed, and from them the distribution of labor, the amount of labor, and the labor efficiency may be readily determined.

2. Farm organization studies, including layout, cropping systems and general efficiency of the farm, will be made, mainly through students in the advanced course.

3. Farm life studies. It is planned to survey a hundred or more farms using a special questionnaire in which detailed information may be obtained regarding rural social life, rural home life, racial relations and rural institutions.

While it is impossible at present to conduct investigations in the other branches of farm economics, it is hoped at some future period to carry on studies in farm finance, land economics, marketing and agricultural geography.

W. C. JENSEN.

CLEMSON COLLEGE,
SOUTH CAROLINA.

TENNESSEE.

1. In coöperation with the Office of Farm Management and Farm Economics, an economic and social survey was planned of land ownership and tenancy in a typical county of the Central Basin. Williamson County was chosen, a very complete schedule was used and the field work completed early last fall. The data are now being tabulated.

2. A study similar to the one made in Williamson County was planned for a typical county in West Tennessee. Madison County was chosen and the field work has been completed. This study was also made in coöperation with the Office of Farm Management and Farm Economics.

3. A study of the history of land prices is now being made, Knox County being chosen as the area to be studied. This study is in coöperation with the Office of Farm Management and Farm Economics, and one man is devoting his time to securing the field data. These data are being gotten from the county register's books, real estate firms and individual farmers.

4. The field work of a farm management survey of a typical section of the East Tennessee Valley has been completed and the tabulations are in process.

5. New work, undertaken during the coming year, will be closely coöordinated with the projects mentioned above.

6. Extension work consists of marketing, to which one man gives full time, farm organization and cropping systems, and farm accounting.

C. E. ALLRED.

COLLEGE OF AGRICULTURE,
KNOXVILLE, TENN.

WISCONSIN.

The investigational work of the Department of Agricultural Economics at the University is divided into four main divisions:

1. Land Economics, including credit.
2. Marketing.
3. Farm Organization and Accounting.
4. Country Life.

At the present time studies are under way in all of those lines. A survey of farm tenure in two selected districts has been completed and the data tabulated. This study covers the history of farm tenure and credit for a period of ten years on about 450 farms.

In marketing several studies are in progress. One on the marketing of milk through the condenseries; one on marketing wool in the Middle West; one on marketing live stock. The latter two studies are comprehensive and will occupy the time of several men for the greater part of a year.

A study of farm organization in coöperation with the Office of Farm Management has been started in Walworth County. A survey was made in August and a route was started in October. The intention is to get complete costs and income data, though the marketing of milk is the central feature of farming in that district. The financial requirements and financial results will be discovered as fully as circumstances permit.

In country life the work at present centers in a survey of Dane County, made under the direction of Dr. C. J. Galpin. The data of this survey are being worked and other data gathered. An attempt is being made to answer the question, What is a community? Primary groups are being identified and their functions explained. The work is in coöperation with the Office of Farm Management and Farm Economics.

Extension work is done by the whole department, each man taking care of the calls which pertain to his own field. In addition to this one man is employed full time as a farm management demonstrator in coöperation with the States Relation Service.

B. H. HIBBARD.

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN,
MADISON.

This completes the publication begun last year of brief statements relating to the programs of work in farm management and farm economics in the State agricultural colleges.

We want the workers in this field to keep us informed of changes in their programs. May we have this year a brief statement of programs for marketing investigations in each State in which the marketing work has not been outlined in the program of work in farm management and farm economics?

EDITOR.